

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02082 181259Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 FAA-00
DOTE-00 /075 W
-----190255Z 108029 /20
R 181214Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9624

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SHUM
SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. TRAVEL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

1. ON MARCH 15, 1977 MS. RUTH BUDIERI, U.S. CITIZEN
AND NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE OF AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS
VISITED THE CONSULAR SECTION TO REPORT THE FOLLOWING
INCIDENT. SHE ASKED THAT WE NOT RPT NOT USE HER NAME IN DIS-
CUSSION OF INCIDENT WITH GOA.
2. ON MARCH 3, 1977, MS. BUDIERI ACCOMPANIED 17 U.S.
AND 3 CANADIAN TRAVEL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES TO
ARGENTINA FROM THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE TRAVELING
IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION EXTENDED TO THEM BY
AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS AND THE ARGENTINE "DIRECCION
NACIONAL DE TURISMO" TO PROMOTE THE ARGENTINE "PARANA
RIVER CRUISE." THE GROUP WAS MET AT EZEIZA AIRPORT
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF AA AND THE TOURIST BOARD AND
WERE EMBARKED ON A SPECIAL CHARTER BUS TO THEIR HOTEL.
ON THE WAY TO THE HOTEL ABOUT MIDNIGHT THE BUS WAS STOPPED BY
MILITARY FORCES WHO FORCED THE GROUP FROM THE BUS AT GUNPOINT.
THEY WERE SPREAD-EAGLED AGAINST THE BUS, SEARCHED AND
HAD THEIR DOCUMENTS CHECKED.

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3. MS. BUDIERI PROTESTED GROUP'S TREATMENT TO OFFICER
IN CHARGE (HE DECLINED TO GIVE HIS NAME). HE ACKNOW-
LEDGED PROTEST AND THEN PROCEEDED TO LECTURE THE GROUP
FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES REGARDING U.S. CUT IN
MILITARY AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA WHILE GRIN-
NING TROOPS LOOKED ON. MS. BUDIERI FEELS THAT INCIDENT

WAS OBVIOUSLY STAGED.

4. MS. BUDIERI HAS BROUGHT THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF ARGENTINE TOURIST BOARD WHO PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT. SHE IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT HARRASSMENT COULD REOCCUR IN FUTURE TOURS. SHE STATED THAT SHE WOULD ADVISE EMBASSY OF GROUP'S TRAVEL PLANS THROUGH DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY WILL MONITOR TRAVEL AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED.

5. WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMALLY PROTESTED THIS INCIDENT TO FONMINISTRY. THE ABSURDITY OF THIS ACTION IS HEIGHTENED BY FACT THAT AA'S PURPOSE IN ORGANIZING THE TRIP--AND AA AFTER ALL IS AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY--IS TO ATTRACT TOURISM TO ARGENTINA. HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS02082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-0337
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770347/aaaaboit.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a512eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3070563
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. TRAVEL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: CASC, SHUM, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a512eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009